

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FEAE-00 TRSE-00 /096 W

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R 081454Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9856

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, GR, BU

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS VISIT TO BULGARIA

REFS: A) SOFIA 71; B) SOFIA 72

1. SUMMARY: JULY 2-4 VISIT BY GREEK PM CARAMANLIS BROUGHT CONSOLIDA-

TION OF IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK-BULGARIAN RELATIONS AND WAS APPARENTLY LONGER ON ATMOSPHERICS THAN CONCRETE RESULTS. EMPHASIS WAS BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING PLANS AND PROJECTS. IN INTERNATIONAL FIELD, COMMUNIQUE PREDICTABLY REFERS TO BALKAN COOPERATION, CYPRUS, CSCE, MBFR, UN AND NEAR EAST. OF SOME INTEREST ARE SUPPORT FOR EXPERT OR MINISTERIAL MEETING OF BALKAN COUNTRIES, REFERENCE TO "WIDER" INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS, AND NOTE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION OF GREEK AND BULGARIAN DELEGATIONS AT UN AND OTHER

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. VISIT WAS PROBABLY QUITE SATISFACTORY TO BULGARIANS. END SUMMARY.

2. CARAMANLIS STATEMENT IN TOAST THAT "GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE" OF MEETING WAS IN PUBLIC ATTESTATION THAT BILATERAL COOPERATION NECESSARY

AND IN CONTINUED INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS OF PEOPLES OF ENTIRE BALKAN PENINSULA, BORNE OUT BY JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND ACCOUNTS OF VISIT PUBLISHED HERE.

3. GREEK AMBASSADOR STEPHANOU, WITH UNCHARACTERISTIC EUPHORIA TELLS US GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT OF VISIT WAS "REMOVAL OF DISTRUST AND BULGARIAN CONVICTION THAT CARAMANLIS IS SINCERE IN DESIRING IMPROVEMENT IN GREEK-BULGARIAN RELATIONS". SINCE THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS EVEN UNDER PREVIOUS REGIME, THIS SEEMS SMALL ACCOMPLISHMENT. APPARENTLY THERE WERE NO MAJOR INITIATIVES AND NO NEW AGREEMENTS SIGNED. LATTER NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF PLETHORA OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING SOME REACHED DURING OR IN WAKE OF FONMIN BITSIOS' JANUARY VISIT (REFTELS).

4. COMMUNIQUE AS WELL AS TOASTS DWELT ON GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS FOR COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND PROJECTS, MANY THE SAME AS THOSE LISTED DURING BITSIOS VISIT. COMMUNIQUE STATED THREE-YEAR CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED AT END OF 1975. THIS WOULD BE IN LIEU OF EXISTING AGREEMENT WHICH WAS PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED THROUGH END OF THIS YEAR. PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV AND PREMIER TODOROV WERE INVITED TO VISIT GREECE AT DATE TO BE SET LATER.

5. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE, TWO COUNTRIES GAVE "PROFOUND" EXAMINATION TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND "CONFIRMED THEIR POSITIONS ARE CLOSE ON VARIOUS QUESTIONS". IN THIS RESPECT, THEY:

A. SUPPORTED COOPERATION AMONG ALL BALKAN COUNTRIES IN FIELDS OF MEDICINE, MATHEMATICS, SPORT, TOURISM, PRESERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMIC MATTERS, TRANSPORT AND ENERGY; AND SAID, "AFTER AGREEMENT OF ALL BALKAN COUNTRIES" MEETING AT EXPERT OR MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO SPECIFY SECTORS AND PROCEDURES FOR COOPERATION WOULD BE USEFUL. (GREEK AMBASSADOR HERE SAYS ANY MINISTERIAL MEETING PROBABLY YEARS AWAY, BUT TECHNICIANS MIGHT AGREE TO MEET MULTI-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATERALLY ON LIMITED SPECIFIC SUBJECTS IF THERE IS GENERAL DESIRE, WHICH WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE TURKEY.)

B. EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING CYPRUS SITUATION, REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR UN RESOLUTIONS AND EXPRESSED BELIEF UN CAN PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN SOLUTION OF PROBLEM, "IF NECESSARY" CONVOKING "A WIDER INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS". (THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE PARALLEL TO HOLDING OUT PROSPECT OF GENEVA CONFERENCE ON ME IF

PARTIES THEMSELVES CANNOT MAKE PROGRESS.)

C. STRESSED SIGNIFICANCE OF CSCE AND PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR FINAL STAGE "AT SOONEST TIME AT HIGH LEVEL". (SAME CAREFUL FORMULATION USED IN BITSIOS COMMUNIQUE, AND LESS THAN GOB DESIRED.)

D. ALSO ATTACHED GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO MBFR TALKS IN VIENNA AND CALLED FOR WORLD-WIDE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE UNDER AUSPICES OF UN.

E. EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF UN TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN THEIR TWO DELEGATIONS TO UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES, DECIDING TO CONTINUE THIS "USEFUL/ PRACTICE IN FUTURE.

F. STRESSED NECESSITY OF JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN NEAR EAST, CALLING FOR OBSERVANCE OF UN AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF OCCUPYING TROOPS.

6. COMMENT: VISIT WAS GIVEN VERY EXTENSIVE PRESS AND TELEVISION COVERAGE, AND WAS PROBABLY QUITE SATISFACTORY AS FAR AS BULGARIAN HOSTS WERE CONCERNED. IT GAVE THEM RENEWED OPPORTUNITY TO BEAT BALKAN GOOD-NEIGHBOR DRUM WHICH THEY DO WITH ENTHUSIASM. WHILE SUPPORTING GREECE ON CYPRUS AND EMPHASIZING IMPROVED GREEK-BULGARIAN RELATIONS, BULGARIANS WERE CAREFUL TO SPEAK REPEATEDLY ABOUT GOOD RELATIONS WITH "ALL" BALKAN COUNTRIES TO PRESERVE APPEARANCE OF EQUAL TREATMENT OF GREECE AND TURKEY. FINALLY, INVITATION TO ZHIVKOV AND TODOROV TO VISIT GREECE CONTRIBUTES TO CAMPAIGN FOR WIDER RECOGNITION OUTSIDE EASTERN EUROPE.
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